GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:722
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
RECHARGE OF GROUND WATER
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-committee of the Advisory Council of Artificial Recharge of ground water headed by Dr. Swaminathan has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether all the recommendations of the committee has been accepted by the Government for implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. During the inaugural address of the first meeting of the Advisory Council, Hon`ble Prime Minister mentioned that `We have to minimize our water use - invest in science and technology to ensure that we can grow crops which use less water. In other words, find ways of valuing the crop per drop`. To implement the suggestions of Hon`ble Prime Minister, a Sub-committee of `Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council` was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to prepare paper on more crop and income per drop of water. The Committee has submitted its report to Ministry of Water Resources. Recommendations made by this Sub-committee have been summarized and given at Annexure.

(c) to (e) Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council while constituting the above Sub-committee stated that the report of the Sub-committee will be considered at the next meeting of the Council. Accordingly, the report of the Sub-committee will be placed before the Council in its next meeting.

ANNEXURE

(REFERENCE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 722 DATED 27.11.2006) RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE HEADED BY DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN `MORE CROP AND INCOME PER DROP OF WATER`

The reports of the Sub-committee on `more crop and income per drop of water` highlights that the irrigation water security is vital both for livelihood and food security. The report draws attention to the scope available for improving the efficiency of use of irrigation water in a manner that both the productivity and profitability of farming are enhanced which is the pathway to an ever-green revolution all over the country, without associated ecological harm. Important recommendations of the Sub-committee are as under:-

The Sub-committee recommended observation of Year 2007-08 as the `Year of More Crop and Income per Drop of Water` to give the strategies and their importance in improving the productivity and income per unit of water.

Adequate provisions in XI Plan for inclusion of the measures for augmentation of water supply should be made. The investment from Government as well as from lending Agencies such as World Bank should give priority for modernization of the tertiary canals with control structures.

Micro Irrigation technology e.g. drip and sprinkler irrigation including drip fertigation to increase productivity of crops with less water should also be popularized. System of Rice Intensification technology (SRI) which requires less quantity of seeds, less nursery area, saves water and labour and enhance yield is also required to be popularized.

Introduction of weather based crop insurance for minimizing the losses to farmers for safeguarding farmers during weather uncertainties.

Implementation of Farmer Participatory Action Research Programmes with the help of Agricultural Universities, Research Institutes, ICRISAT, WALMIs, etc. for triggering a mass movement. This Programme can cover 5000 villages in different agro-climatic regions during 2007-08. The Gram Sabhas in the villages will serve as Pani-panchayats and will provide overall guidance and support to this programme. In addition, launching of `water literacy movement` and imparting training to one woman and man from every panchayat

as Water Masters is also suggested.

The Water User Agencies (WUAs) should be involved in the decision making so that the maintenance of the structures will be made easy.

In order to implement successfully the above recommendations, a 3-tier setup at Village, State and National level has been suggested. At National level, a Pan Government of India Steering Committee consisting of representatives of various Departments which will report to Agricultural Coordination Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister.